37

POL 23-9 GREECE

XR POL 29 GREECE

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

90-80

CONFIDENTIAL

Action
NEA
Info
SS
OPM
SP
SC
SAH
L
H
P
USIA
NSC
INR
CIA
NSA
DOD
OPR
O
SY
SCA
SCS

RSR

GMA539VV A1A613 DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/HR

REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 02/17/94

RDS or EDC EXT. DATE 1982

TS LVEL. EXA (5)

ENCLOSE ATTACHMENT MARKED

DAC LIMITED CHARGE

PAPA

1967 APR 21 PM 12 35

RR RUEHC
DE RUQMAT 4769A 1111630
ZNY CCCCC
R 211610Z APR 67
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC
STATE GRNC
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4769 DOS

1. MARGARET PAPANDREOU'S FATHER, MR. CHANT, AND HER FRIEND MRS. SCHACTER, CAME INTO THE EMBASSY FOR THE SECOND TIME TODAY AND WERE RECEIVED BY AMB.

2. THEY REFERRED TO FACT ARTICLE 18 OF CONSTITUTION (WHICH FORBIDS EXECUTIONS FOR POLITICAL CRIMES) AND FACT RUMORS EXIST THAT SOME OF POLITICAL PRISONERS MIGHT BE DISPOSED OF BEFORE MORNING. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THEY, AS WELL AS MARGARET, ARE ACUTELY APPREHENSIVE ABOUT ANDREAS' FATE. THEY ALSO REFERRED TO FACT THAT MARGARET AND HER CHILDREN ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS AND INQUIRED WHETHER AMBASSADOR WAS IN POSITION TO GIVE ANY PARTICULAR GUIDANCE CONCERNING THEIR ACTIONS.

3. AMB. SAID EMB HAD BEEN FOLLOWING SITUATION AS CLOSELY AS WE COULD BUT THAT OUR INFORMATION STILL EXTREMELY LIMITED BY INACCESSIBILITY OF PERSONS INVOLVED, FACT TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATIONS HAD BEEN CUT, AND THAT CIRCULATION IN CITY HAD BEEN PROHIBITED. HE INFORMED THEM HE HAD ALREADY CONVEYED TO GREEK MILITARY (ATHENS 4753) HIS CONVICTION THAT BLOODSHED AND VIOLENCE WOULD NOT ONLY HAVE MOST UNFORTUNATE IMPLICATIONS FOR EVOLUTION OF THE GREEK SITUATION BUT COULD BE EXPECTED PRODUCE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS OUTSIDE OF GREECE, ESPECIALLY IN US. AMB. OBSERVED WE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT KING HAD NOT IN FACT SIGNED EMERGENCY DECREE SUSPENDING CERTAIN ARTICLES OF CONSTITUTION AND THAT AS FAR AS WE AWARE MEETING BETWEEN KING AND SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS STILL CONTINUING. THIS SUGGESTS TO US SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT DOES IN FACT EXIST.

4. CHANT AND SCHACHTER APPEARED HIGHLY SKEPTICAL THAT COUP MAY HAVE BEEN STAGED WITHOUT KING'S APPROVAL. CHANT COMMENTED IF ANDREAS WERE EXECUTED THERE WOULD WITHOUT QUESTION BE REVOLUTION IN WHICH MANY PEOPLE WOULD LOSE THEIR LIVES.

(2)

CONFIDENTIAL

Unclassified 4769 4-21-67

DECLASSIFIED

PAGE 3 RUQMAT 4769A C O N F I D E N T I A L

HE SAID THAT IN LIGHT SERIOUSNESS SITUATION MARGARET BELIEVED SOME WORD OF ADMONITION FROM PRES. JOHNSON WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.

5. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR THEIR ANXIETIES REGARDING PERSONAL SAFETY OF ANDREAS. HE AGAIN ASSURED THEM US HAS AND WOULD BY EVERY MEANS DISCOURAGE GREEK MILITARY LEADERS FROM ANY RESORT TO VIOLENCE OR BLOODSHED AND TO AN APPRECIATION OF SERIOUS DAMAGE WHICH WOULD RESULT BOTH WITHIN GREECE AND IN GREECE'S RELATIONS WITH ORTHER COUNTRIES.

6. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR HAS IN FACT INSTRUCTED ALL OFFICIAL AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES SEEKING ESTABLISH CONTACT ON VARIOUS LEVELS WITH GREEK MILITARY TO EMPHASIZE THAT BLOODSHED WILL MAKE AN ALREADY TRAGICALLY COMPLICATED SITUATION INFINITELY MORE SO.
GP-3
TALBOT
BT

Note: Copies sent S/S-O

DECLASSIFIED